

Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of
Correction

"Coming together is a
beginning. Keeping
together is progress.
Working together is
success." ~ Henry Ford

Friday, October 17, 2008

This week, 59 IDOC employees graduated from the 2008 Commissioner's Experienced and Emerging Leaders (EEL) program at the Correctional Training Institute. The program engages promising staff in workshops to improve leadership skills.

The National Institute of Corrections (NIC) has selected Doug Evans, IDOC's Prison Industries Operations Manager, to participate on its first national "All Industries Team." As a member of this team, Doug will receive advanced training as an offender workforce development specialist (OWDS) and will be able to take this training back to Indiana to train others.

Within the first two weeks of opening, all 10 offenders assigned to the new Jefferson Community Re-entry Center have obtained employment! The Jefferson Community Re-entry Center operates within the Madison Correctional Facility.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility Acting Superintendent Bryan Pearson presented a check for \$171 raised by an offender pizza sale to Lords Locker in Trafalgar, IN. Lords Locker assists the facility by supplying clothing for offenders upon release.

Pendleton Juvenile was recommended for ACA re-accreditation with 100% mandatory and 98.7% non-mandatory scores.

PEN Products' New Castle Correctional Facility operation became the 12th IDOC facility to become registered in the U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship program. The operation refurbishes portable medical equipment.

At the fall ICA conference, the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit was named Program of the Year, the Youth Incarcerated as Adult Unit received the prestigious Warren W. Martin award, and volunteers Jack and Kathy Gunyon were named Volunteers of the Year for their work in the PLUS Unit.

Rockville Correctional Facility held their third blood drive of 2008, resulting in the donation of 13 units.

Pendleton Correctional Facility received photographs of an orphan in Haiti who was a recipient of a wheelchair restored in the Wheels for the World program. Orphanage staff expressed their gratitude for the detail and quality of the wheelchair.

22 women at the Madison Correctional Facility made up the first graduating class from the GRIP (Growth, Responsibility, Integrity, and Purpose) Therapeutic Community, which serves as an in-patient substance abuse therapeutic community.

Reception Diagnostic Center hosted a blood drive with the Indiana Blood Center, with 12 units of blood being donated.

Putnamville Correctional Facility's Farm, Equine, and Culinary Arts Education Program hosted farmers, NRCS technical staff, and central office staff for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Intensive Grazing Tour.

Indiana State Prison issued 200 educational certificates, including 50 GEDs and 100 vocational certificates at a ceremony.

2 PEN Products offender workers in the Miami Braille Project at the Miami Correctional Facility have earned their Transcribers Certification from the Library of Congress. The training helps offenders provide textbooks for Indiana schools.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility held its annual Christmas behind Bars Program, which presented 7 different workshops. More than 1,130 offenders signed up for the program, and 998 offenders came through the chapel in 10 ½ hours.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a graduation ceremony to honor 25 offenders for completing the Vocational Horticulture Program. 3 offenders also received their GED certificates.

The Indianapolis Star recently highlighted Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility's Reading with Dad and Me program in which residents videotape reading a children's book aloud and send a DVD recording of the reading to their children.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner